

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
December 11, 2013**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Old Business

Chairman Rage said last month a discussion was held about doing some kind of permit parking. He talked to Attorney Somers and she said the Village District does not have jurisdiction over this issue. Chairman Rage said the District can go to the Board of Selectmen who can give permission to test permit parking. The Selectmen do not have to put forth a warrant article.

Chairman Ladd, Commissioner Buckley and Eileen Daboul attended a meeting in Seabrook where Seabrook parking issues were addressed. Ms. Daboul said people in Seabrook are not allowed to park in front of their own homes during the summer season, but other people can. Ms. Daboul said Seabrook has more problems than Hampton because they have no lots. There are lots in Hampton that are still not being fully utilized. Seabrook will be having another meeting this month where ordinances will be reviewed.

Chairman Rage said Seabrook was very welcoming and perhaps ideas can come from attendance at these meetings. Then the Commissioners can go to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Rage emphasized that the Board of Selectmen do not have to do a warrant article to test permitting. Commissioner Ladd said Seabrook has a parking committee and the District might want to do the same. Richard Reniere asked why the Commissioners are going to Seabrook. Commissioner Ladd said Seabrook already has ordinances and they are not working. Perhaps the District can learn from this.

Selectman Michael Pierce said stickers for cars might be a solution. Chairman Rage said perhaps the winter parking ban might be lifted since the street is wider.

Mr. LaBranche said an oil tank was found in the Ashworth/Precinct parking area and had to be taken out. The State now has to test the soil. If it is contaminated, further steps will have to be taken that could be very expensive.

Trash pickup was discussed. Chairman Rage said the Board of Selectmen have offered to have a public hearing on this on Monday night, December 16th.

Chairman Rage discussed 79-E whereby developers can come in and build and they will be granted a tax abatement by the Board of Selectmen. This could increase property value and bring down the tax rate. Chairman Rage said he thinks it would be a mistake to take this away. It shouldn't be used for every property however. Anyone with issues for or against 79-E should bring it up with the Board of Selectmen.

New Business

Commissioner Ladd thanked the George Ashworth Trust for their donation of \$200 to the District.

Commissioner Ladd said he would like to focus on people who are struggling this time of year. There is a need for food to be provided for children who are not getting it during the holidays when they are out of school. If anyone would like to donate they should contact Janine Richards through SAU 90.

Commissioner Ladd asked about transferring funds that are currently in the trust fund to be used to improve the playground. John Kane, Marketing Director, said there are things in the playground that could be looked at. Chairman Rage suggested doing a walk through to decide. Mr. LaBranche said some improvements were made at the playground this past year. Equipment was painted and a shed built around the electrical.

Commissioner Ladd asked Mr. Pierce to notify the Commissioners when FEMA meetings will be held in January. Mr. Pierce said he would do so.

Chairman Rage said Tim Jones had asked about the Rockingham Planning Commission. It is State mandated that towns go through this commission. Chairman Rage said he will find out more information on this issue in January.

Chairman Rage said Cathy Silva of Blue Ocean would like to pass out coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, etc. at the New Years Eve celebration.

Moved by Commissioner Buckley, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to pay for the distribution of coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, etc for the New Years Eve celebration not to exceed \$200.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Noise levels at the beach were discussed. Chairman Rage said neighbors have to respect neighbors. Everyone needs to work together. Commissioner Ladd said there should be some mechanism for violations such as a warning for first offense and a fine after that. Commissioner Ladd also asked if thought has been given to unintended consequences.

Commissioner Ladd said there will be a ribbon cutting tomorrow, December 12th, at 4:00 p.m. at the fire station.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2013.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Tim Jones, 16 Dustin Ave., said the State Legislature has granted what is a monopoly to the Rockingham Planning Commission. Therefore, the Executive Council will not consider the Town for receiving government funds without the blessing of this Commission which is not a government entity. Ms. Daboul asked how much this costs. Mr. Jones said there are dues, but also hidden costs.

Mr. Jones commended Commissioner Ladd for bringing up the issue of unintended consequences. 79-E is an example. This was inspired by Hampton because of the fires at the beach. This has become much more expansive than intended. It called for the creation of standards, but no standards have been set by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Jones said he would suggest suspending this until standards are established.

Regarding the playground, Mr. Jones said everything the District does there is making a gift to the State. This is an ongoing concern. This is one of those unintended consequences that has happened. The fact is that local taxes are being used to make improvements on State property. Mr. Jones said he found this repugnant.

Mr. Pierce said that if one reads 79-E there are standards that must be met to qualify.

Closing Comments

Commissioner Buckley wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

